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Serving The Greater Metropolitan Newark Area Since 1983

December 6-December 12, 1995

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Black rape case
in Japan creates
international stir

by William Reed

Three African-American service men accused of abducting and raping a man in Okinawa, Japan, have created an international uproar from Japan to Washington. The top Navy admiral in the Pacific has been fired over comments he made about the incident.

And the White House and Pentagon have been drawn into the situation as the highest officials on the island of Okinawa, Japan, are demanding the removal of five military bases and operations off the island threatening the security alliance between the nations.

A group of lawyers from New York, Atlanta and Tennessee, who've never met the defendants, are contending that the servicemen may have been victims of coerced confessions. One of the servicemen, Navy Seaman Marcus D. Gill, has admitted beating and raping the girl, but the others insist that they did not participate in the rape, but did help abduct and bound her with tape.

The three men, Marine Pfc. Kenneth Ledet, 20, of Waycross, Ga.; Pfc. Rodrick Harp, 21, of Griffin, Ga.; and Seaman Gill of Woodville, Tex., could face from three years to life if convicted of the crime.

Gill, who has been described as the "ring leader" by prosecutors, admitted his guilt during a hearing on the matter in early November in Japan.

In a two-hour hearing, prosecutors gave a detailed account of the crime saying the suspects had planned the attack, going to a store to buy condoms and adhesive tape, which they allegedly used to cover the victim's eyes and mouth and bind her hands and feet.

The three are accused in Japanese court of snatching the sixth grader off the street on the evening of September 4 and carrying her in the back seat of a rented car.

The servicemen did not say anything beyond their pleas.

The highest ranking Navy officer in charge of the Pacific Fleet, Adm. Richard C. Macke, threw the White House into a fit when he said, "For the cost of the rental car they could have had a girl." The remark resulted in Macke's firing after numerous high-level talks between the White House and the Pentagon who each declared Macke had "made a serious mistake."

Actually, according to the lawyer of one of the defendants, the three had discussed hiring a prostitute but Gill said he had no money and proposed the rape instead. Along Okinawa City's "Whisper Alley" prostitutes fly soldiers "what they want" for \$20 to \$100 a night.

In the U.S., family members of the accused men say the men were coerced into signing confessions of guilt, and that the U.S. military is not doing enough to defend the servicemen.

Barbara Cannon, the mother of Pfc. Ledet, said, "My son told me, when he wrote his statement, it was changed by the United States government. It is allowing his statement to be changed, then I knew that he wasn't going to get a fair trial and that they weren't going to defend him." According to Mr. Cannon, her son had

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See RACE CASE/page 8

Eliminate aid for dependent corporations



by Marian Wright Edelman

As our Congressional leaders search for ways to reduce the federal deficit, I want to throw the widely-heard support behind a proposal to eliminate AFDC—that is, Aid For Dependent Corporations, or corporate welfare.

Each year, our federal government gives away billions of dollars in subsidies and grants to private corporations for research and development and promotional programs. This year alone, according to a study prepared by Janice Shields at the watchdog group Essential Information in Washington, D.C., the federal government is providing a total of \$167.2 billion in welfare for corporations.

That's almost twice as much as the federal government spends on child nutrition programs and the children's portions of federal housing assistance, Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and food stamps. That total is about \$85 billion.

Talk about mixed-up priorities! It seems Congress believes the federal government can afford to give away \$75 million in FY '96 under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Market Promotion Program so that "poverty-stricken" companies and trade associations such as Sunkist Growers, Inc., Raisin Producers, E. & J. Gallo Winery, and the North American Fur Producers can advertise their wares overseas to increase their corporate profits.

Yet, Congress insists the federal government can't afford to continue educating that hungry infants and

children—our nation's future—have access to nutritious food through the food stamp program when their families fall on hard times.

Congress has put aside \$500 million to promote the export of farms by private industry in FY 1995. Yet, the House has passed and the Senate soon will vote on, legislation repealing crime bill prevention programs that would provide a safe haven for our sons and daughters who now must spend their time on violence-ridden streets after school and on weekends.

There's no question that many corporations, like the Walt Disney Co., for example, do a great deal to help children in need. But does that mean taxpayers this year should kick in \$300 million (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 4, 1995) to help officials at Disney figure out a better way to launch rockets as part of their nightly fireworks displays in Florida and California theme parks?

Meanwhile, Congress wants to cut back the tax credit for millions of low-income working families that can barely afford to feed and clothe their children, much less take them to Disneyland to see fancy fireworks.

I find it appalling that Congress is willing to prop up rich American corporations that do not need taxpayers' help—typically CEO's salaries are 150 times that of the average worker in their company—while millions of poor and low income children do not have access to nutritious food, safe shelter, affordable health care and quality child care.

What's more, if the majority in Congress has its way and eliminates federal guarantees of help for hungry, poor, ill, disabled, abused, and neglected children, millions more will be forced into poverty.

I love fireworks. But it's time for our politicians to wake up and understand how investing in fireworks and fur coats instead of children jeopardizes—for all of us—the promise of a better future for our nation. Write or call your members of Congress today and tell them to get their priorities straight.

Marian Wright Edelman is the president of the Children's Defense Fund.

New Brunswick youth benefit from Project 2000



C. Roy Epps (l) president of the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick and Robert Neressian district manager of PR for AT&T assist two Project 2000 participants with their schoolwork.

Photo by Charles Pearson.

by Lyne D. Johnson

NEW BRUNSWICK—It began over four years ago based on the concept that there was a need to bring more African-American males into the classroom. In those four years, that idea, Project 2000/Middle School Development Program (MSDP) has received financial support totaling a quarter of a million dollars.

Developed by the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick in 1991, the program is an innovative initiative aimed at assisting more than one-third of New Brunswick's 3,200 public elementary school students, and it has won the financial support and commitment of AT&T, Johnson & Johnson and Merrill Lynch.

The three companies have committed \$125,000 to cover the operation of the programs for the 1995-96 school year and fund a research project designed to measure the impact of the program.

As well as lending financial assistance, more than 300 employees from the companies volunteer during work hours and personal time.

In Project 2000 corporate volunteers go into the classroom to assist teachers, plan curriculum and act as role models. "Volunteerism is essential to the survival of urban schools," said C. Roy Epps, President of the Civic League.

"Corporations have the resources that can make a genuine difference in the learning and life experiences of

these urban school children and it is vital that they become involved."

According to Epps, a lot of males came from female-headed households into schools with a female principal and a female teacher. "Project 2000 addresses how they see themselves," Epps continued.

The number of volunteers in the program has quadrupled in the four years. Project 2000 began at the Paul Robeson School with volunteer teacher assistants from the affiliated companies of Johnson & Johnson. Initially, the program involved students from kindergarten to third grade and 27 male volunteers.

For females, there is the MSDP. "It offers a team approach and an opportunity for female students to see real role models in the corporate world," Epps explained.

Volunteers with MSDP spend two half-days a month interacting with students and discussing a variety of issues including self-esteem, decision making, coping skills, interpersonal relationships and violence reduction. More than 130 volunteers are working in 33 classes with 908 students this school year.

Participating schools include Paul Robeson Community School, Lord Sterling School, McKinley Elementary School, Livingston School and A. Chester Redshaw School.

"It's been a positive experience, not only at the corporate level, but at a volunteer/employee level. The employees have given a lot to New Brunswick, and they have gotten tremendous benefit from giving to the

See YOUTH BENEFIT/page 10

Fighting the revolution of greed and reaction

by Myrtle Evers-Williams

If working families are to reverse the declining living standards that have plagued them for the past dozen or more years, the institutions that represent and speak for them—most prominent among them, the labor and civil rights organizations—must get their act together.

That means internally—cleaning out our own houses, as the NAACP has been doing for the last year and as the AFL-CIO is doing under its dynamic new leadership. It means externally—recreating our historic alliance for progress and justice with a vision for the '90s. And it means doing it now, before the forces of greed and reaction cement their "revolution" in Congress and the state houses.

I know first-hand about the web that binds trade unions and Civil Rights groups. My first husband, the late Medgar Evers, marched with the great labor leaders of the 1950s and early 1960s. My second husband, the late Walter Williams, was a member of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union for nearly 40 years.

He knew, as I know, that collective bargaining is as sacred as any civil

right, and that collective bargaining brought millions of working families, white and African American alike, into the middle class. It's time our elected leaders understood that giving more workers the power of collective bargaining is the only way to prevent millions from being driven back into poverty.

Unfortunately, today, corporate profits, stock prices and CEO salaries go through the roof while workers' wages collapse through the floor. The fruits of a growing economy fall into the laps of the top one percent, while the bottom 90 percent—including virtually all African Americans—are left with the pits.

Cynical, opportunistic, and outright venal politicians make this possible by playing the dirtiest trick in American politics. It's Bob Dole and Phil Gramm, Newt Gingrich and Pat Buchanan using the language and symbols of Jesse Helms and David Duke to advance the sentiments of the Mark Fuhrman's of the world.

Immigrants and affirmative action, "welfare queens" and "quotas," are just some of the racial code words politicians use to make voters blame their problem on those who have an



even harder time making ends meet.

These politicians are also labor's enemies. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The labor-baiter and the labor-baiter is virtually always a twin-headed creature spewing anti-Negro epithets from one mouth and anti-labor propaganda from the other mouth."

With voters' attention diverted

See REVOLUTION/page 10

President Clinton had to take a stand

from the National
Rainbow Coalition

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The partial government shutdown was unfortunate, but the President had to do. He had to draw a line in the sand. Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senator Bob Dole have no mandate to transfer wealth from working people, poor people and the elderly to the most privileged.

They have no mandate to weaken the foundations of security for millions of hardworking Americans, in order to feed the greed of the wealthy. They have no mandate to hold our elderly hostage to their tax breaks for the rich.

The NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund reports that this Republi-

can-led Congress is prepared to repeal the New Deal with a "Raw Deal" for women and children. Proposed cuts in social programs will reduce struggling families to lives of poverty. The Senate welfare bill could move 1.2 million children below poverty, while the House bill could move 2.1 million children below poverty. The following figures are the worst proposed cuts:

- ✓ \$270 billion in cuts in Medicare. This essential health care program serves 36.3 million seniors and people with disabilities, and \$70 billion of the cuts would come from forcing seniors to pay higher premiums and deductibles.
- ✓ \$177 billion in cuts in Medicaid.



See TAKE A STAND/page 10

Trenton schools on the road to certification

PLAINFIELD—According to Trenton Schools Superintendent Bernice Venable, the Trenton schools are on the road to certification. Over the last 20 years, the Trenton district has been struggling to meet ever-changing state requirements. Finally they may be light at the end of the tunnel.

In a written release from the school's chief, the district has a comprehensive plan which has been followed with these results:

- 90.7 percent student attendance
- 15 of 23 second-day Saints is contributing one million books to the campaign and The Brother's Brother Foundation has committed an additional two million books.
- 7.5 percent dropout rate
- Fire doors installed in 18 schools
- New fire alarm system installed by June 1996
- Window, roof and boilers repairs being done

In other areas, the district has exceeded requirements such as parent involvement, information to the public, decreasing in-school suspensions, record keeping, and fiscal matters.

Sullivan appeals for educational materials for African schools

PHILADELPHIA, PA—The Rev. Leon H. Sullivan's appeal for educational supplies to help needy children in African countries has generated a widespread response throughout the United States.

Rev. Sullivan, convener of the African-American Summit launched his SOS (Supporters of Sub-Saharan Africa) Campaign at a public rally in Philadelphia during Thanksgiving week to help millions of African school children.

Rev. Sullivan said thousands of boxes of books and school supplies have poured into Philadelphia from across America. The effort is an outgrowth of appeals made to Rev. Sullivan at the 1995 African American Summit in Dakar, Senegal by leaders from Africa.

According to Rev. Sullivan, contributions to the SOS Campaign have

come from a thousand African-American churches and other religious groups and organizations. He said, institutions such as the church of Jesus Christ of 23rd-day Saints is contributing one million books to the campaign and The Brother's Brother Foundation has committed an additional two million books.

In addition, the U.S. government is opening its warehouses for the efforts and permitting supplies to be taken from the warehouses to support the campaign. The U.S. Air Force has agreed to transport the supplies to the selected African countries, the first of which are Liberia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and Benin.

"The educational needs are great for millions of African children yearning for reading and writing materials.

See AFRICAN SCHOOLS/page 10



Jackson gets family support award

Sandra Jackson, executive director of the Arc of Union County was recently honored by the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey with the first New Jersey "Family Support Hall of Fame" Award. The award is given to an individual who has been instrumental in strengthening the family support movement in New Jersey.

Don Viapree, director of customer service, public and government affairs for Cablevision of Newark, and Mary Singletary, director of the North Jersey Office of the Governor, are pictured receiving auction items at the recent March of Dimes Community Service Awards Banquet held at the Newark Club. Viapree and Singletary are two of 11 NJ business and civic leaders recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Plainfield Tennis Council

6th Annual Holiday Tennis Classic

December 26 - 30, 1995

Juniors BG 10-18 Singles & Doubles (Day Matches)	Adults Open - 55 Singles & Doubles (Evening Matches)	Free Tournament T-Shirts for Juniors & All entrants eligible for Drawing of 1996 U.S. Open Tickets
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City, St, Zip: _____ Age: _____

Partner: _____ Partner Age: _____

Partner Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ATTENTION

PLAINFIELD—Black Business Association of Plainfield is announcing its annual Christmas Toy Drive. Drop off sites available throughout the city. Current stations are T.C. Scarce Printers & The Black United Fund Center. Anyone wishing to be a drop off station call Elliot Simmons at 908-757-3295.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
JERSEY CITY—Hudson Community College's Department of Continuing Education is offering a free seminar titled "The Minority Woman on the Go?" For more info call 201-714-2107.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
NEWARK—The Schiller Institute presents a forum: "Open the files: Stop Political Corruption in the U.S. Dept. of Justice." Speakers include Rev. James Bevel and Alim Muhammad at Hilton Garden Hotel, Essex Room at 4 p.m. For more info call 201-641-8585.

NEW YORK—The Lehman Center For The Performing Arts presents Tai Bualot's "Fancy Gardener in the Nutcracker On Ice." For more information call 718-960-8833.

JERSEY CITY—Christmas Through the Ages: A Holiday Concert, of Jersey City State College, will be presented by the College's Concert Chorale. The event will be held at 3 p.m. in Ingalis Recital Hall of Possey Building on the college campus. For more information call 201-203-3151.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

PLAINFIELD—An update on legislation affecting seniors. 1 p.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center, 305 East Front Street. Call 908-753-3506.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

WAYNE—William Paterson College Concert Choir presents its annual winter concert at 8 p.m. For more info call 201-955-2371.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

LINCOLN—African American Heritage Series at Brookside Community College is offering an evening bus trip to Sylvia's Restaurant followed by Amateur Night at the Apollo. For more info call 908-224-2880.

DECEMBER 13 & 14

JERSEY CITY—Aspiring chefs can now register for courses at Hudson County Community College's Culinary Arts Institute. Call 714-2193.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

WEST ORANGE—1995 Holiday Party for seniors at Mayfair Farms Restaurant, hosted by the Saint Bambas and Union Hospital SeniorHealth members. The event starts at 12 noon. Call 908-964-0444 for ticket and transportation info.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

NEWARK—Councilwoman Mildred C. Crump will host Police Hearing on Police Poisoning, with special guest speaker Jack Anderson. 1 p.m. at City Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor.

COPING

by Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Brainwashing you for Christmas....

Christmas is just a few weeks away and advertisers have hired psychologists to help them manipulate you into spending huge sums of money on presents. Of course, you think that you buy those expensive gifts because you want to buy them. You say to yourself, "Nobody can make me buy anything. I only buy what I want to buy."

I hate to tell you this, but you are being psychologically manipulated. And the biggest part of the manipulation is to make you believe that you purchased the gifts because you wanted to buy them. Advertisers do not want you to think that you are manipulated into spending large sums of money that you would not normally spend. This way, you won't accuse them of manipulating your behavior. But manipulating you is exactly what they are doing.

Here's how advertisers play with your mind. On the day after Thanksgiving, the "Christmas Spirit" hits you with a bang. Stores play hour after hour of Christmas carols and religious music; restaurants overwhelm you with Christmas songs; radio stations deluge you with every sad Christmas song ever recorded; newspapers publish picture after picture of families gathered around the Christmas tree; magazines show lovers embracing in front of a fireplace on Christmas Eve; and guilty family members give each other gifts as a means of recapturing the affection that they lost during the year, as the result of meanness, neglect and abuse.

Do you like that new Japanese tape recorder? You will after you see it advertised over and over and over again on television, in magazines, or in newspapers. Are you sad and sentimental? You will be, after listening to six solid weeks of Christmas music. Do you feel guilty about that argument you had with your family, spouse or any other loved one? You probably are. And how are you going to make them love you again? You'll buy them one of those gorgeous, expensive gifts that you've seen advertised over and over and over again. Are you lonely and in need of companionship? You will be, after seeing the hundreds of pictures of loving couples embracing and kissing in front of a soothing fireplace on that glorious night before Christmas.

You, like millions of other Americans, will purchase gifts for your husband, wife, children, girlfriend, boyfriend, relative, boss, acquaintance, perhaps out of love, but in many cases out of deep feelings of guilt, loneliness and sadness. These manufacturers, and the master psychologists who prepare the commercials that were so effective in manipulating your behavior, are experts in brainwashing. They realize that at Christmas, they can double or triple the price of their merchandise. But you will buy it, in order to relieve yourself of the Christmas "blues" which they have inflicted on you. They are betting that you can't resist.

Giving gifts, even non-expensive ones, is a very fine thing to do, especially if it is unexpected. You would benefit by being able to purchase your gift much, much cheaper than you would be able to do during the holidays. The point here is that you don't have to yield to the manipulation of advertisers. You can show your love or friendship, at a time when advertisers do not have the upper hand, psychologically. The period before, or after, Christmas would be a great time to show that you care.

Professional Directory

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National News at a glance

MAYLIE EVERS SELECTED AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Glamour magazine has selected the Chair of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, as one of its 10 Women of the Year. Mrs. Evers-Williams and the nine other Women of the Year winners appear in Glamour's December issue. —WASHINGTON, DC

COPY-CAT CRIME: CRIMINALS MIMIC MONEY TRAIN

In the new Wesley Snipes thriller, a sadistic pyromaniac has selected the New York subway clerks with gasoline through the money-changer opening in their booths and strikes a match creating instant chaos. It is a crime too horrible to imagine, except that a series of such torchings happened in New York during the 1980s. Now, Harry Kaufman, a black 22-year veteran of the transit system is in critical condition suffering third-degree burns over his whole body from such a torching in New York and critics say the Columbia film inspired the incident. Kaufman's wife, Stella, said, "Have Wesley Snipes call me. I just want to talk with him." Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.) said, "Those who work in Hollywood's corporate suites' share blame for the incident and suggested a public boycott of Money Train. Kaufman said two black males, aged 18 to 20 torched his station booth in Brooklyn and caused his clothes to be completely burned off and all his skin charred." —NEW YORK, NY

STUDY INDICATES BLACK GIRLS MATURE EARLIER

Black girls tend to have more muscle and bone mass by age 10 than do white or Hispanic girls. Preliminary findings of a study at the USDA's Children Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston indicate that this trend progresses during puberty as black girls mature at a faster rate, says Dr. Kenneth Ellis. He believes this new information on growth patterns may play a role in adjusting or "customizing" dietary guidelines to meet the nutritional needs of particular racial and ethnic groups. "It is important to know, for example, that black girls may need more protein in their diet because they are developing muscle tissue and growing at a faster rate." Ellis said. —WASHINGTON, DC

JOB BIAS STILL IN PLACE SAYS PANEL

A bi-partisan Federal commission studying discrimination in the workplace issued its final report, noting that minorities and women still faced barriers to advancement in corporations. The commission's report, "A Solid Investment: Making Full Use of America's Human Capital," says that after a three-year study and offers a counter argument to those who maintain affirmative action is unnecessary because equal opportunity already exists. Minorities and women are still consistently under-represented at the highest levels of corporate America. For example, 97 percent of the senior managers of Fortune 1000 industrial and Fortune 500 companies are white, and 95 to 97 percent are men. In the Fortune 2000 industrial and service companies only five percent of senior managers are women. One out of eight of the top 100 African-American men with professional degrees earn 21 percent less than their white counterparts holding the same degrees in the same categories, the commission found. —WASHINGTON, DC

CIRCUIT CITY STORES ACCUSED OF DISCRIMINATION

The Richmond Voice reports that two employment discrimination lawsuits have been filed against Circuit City Stores accusing the 370-store company of discriminating against African Americans. The suits, filed on behalf of 19 Richmond, Washington, DC and Baltimore employees, charge Circuit City keeps its higher management all-white as a part of a corporate culture that blocks black employees from moving up. "Racism at Circuit City has thrived. And these complaints allege that racism appears

COMMENTARY

Will Nigeria become the last colony?

by William Reed

In your opinion-forming about the various positions one can take regarding the issue of Nigeria, always bear in mind that Nigeria is the colonists' choice as the country in Africa they'll most likely succeed in. Translation: Nigeria is the African country with the most abundant mineral and soil resources that the colonists intend to use to increase their wealth and material lifestyles.

With its rich soil and abundant minerals beneath the ground, the country of Nigeria represents the wealth of Africa's past, present and future.

With more than 250 tribes and long-smoldering discord between Northern Muslims and Southern Christians, Nigeria's wealth and solidarity have been on the verge of breakdown since its independence from Great Britain in 1960.

Bigger than Texas with 90 million people, Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation. Second on the continent to the South African economy, developed by the Afrikaners, Nigeria should be the richest country due to its light, sweet, crude oil much desired by the rest of the world for its

high gasoline content.

But with a per capita income that has been declining since the 1980s, the primary ones getting rich in Nigeria are foreign-based oil companies and a ruling and civilian elite who all participate in gaining personal wealth from the multi-billion dollar oil industry.

Nigeria oil, which is pumped more than Kuwait's is very important to the world's combustion engines. The Nigerian government earns \$7 billion a year from oil sales, the multi-nationals based in the lands of the great colonial powers earn more. Ashland, Mobil, Chevron and Texaco are among the U.S. firms extracting oil and profits from Nigeria. The Europeans pumping oil there include Anglo-Dutch Shell, Agrip Spa of Italy and France's Elf Aquitaine.

In 35 years of independence, Nigeria has had only one elected civilian president. He looted the treasury and bankrupted the nation at a time when it should have been wallowing in wealth, during the oil boom of the early 1980s.

Since then there have been two coups, two military rulers, a civilian regime considered to have been a puppet of the military, and a presidential

election in 1993 that was annulled. Nigeria's military has been its ruler 10 of the 35 years of its independence.

Its generals say they are in charge due to the mess civilians have made during their periods of rule. Other leaders among the country's elite point to the ethnic, religious and cultural differences that keep the various segments of Nigeria separate and unable to unify under one political banner or national leader.

Although they could easily find 10 other countries in Africa with either military, autocratic strongman or one-party ruling systems, or simply with a total breakdown in their governing systems, human rights groups have focused on Nigeria to make it a "democracy."

Although most activists who oppose Nigeria in its present form have high ranking officials from Europe and America behind them, many Nigerians are quick to point out that the British were there for over 60 years and "they never tried to impose democracy then." While they are currently the international pariahs for their lack of a democratic system, most in the international community don't know that Nigerians have "been

there and done that."

Even though in their years of independence Nigerians have tried at least two political processes patterned after the U.S. and British systems, they have not been able to overcome differences which keep groups in the country divided, not only on who will be president, but even on if the country can remain intact.

But even though they could focus on decayed human rights and democracy systems in Brundi, or Rwanda or Liberia, human rights groups have set their "moral" sights on Nigeria to make it in the image and likeness of their countries of origin. Activist groups in the U.S. and Europe are

See COLONY/ page 10

Find out what goes on in your town

UNION—What do Brick May or Joseph Scarpelli, Plainfield Mayor Mark Fury and Perth Amboy Mayor Anthony Vassallo have in common? They're all part of the *Concast Newsmakers*. *Concast Newsmakers* is a new five-minute segment at the top and bottom of each hour on CNN's *Headline News* that provides a forum for local newsmakers to communicate with New Jersey residents.

Newsmakers who include elected officials, community, civic, and business leaders, as well as other New Jerseyans who are making a difference in the state, discuss specific timely topics with a television news anchorperson.

The segments are scheduled on a rotating basis, with local editions seen 54 minutes after the hour and a state-wide edition shown 24 minutes after the hour.

"Newsmakers is an excellent opportunity for our cable customers to tune in to what is happening in their towns and state," said Joseph J. Fischer, area vice president of Comcast.

"The response to the segments has been extremely positive, and we've seen that New Jersey residents are looking for information relevant to their daily lives, and that's not always available by watching television news that comes out of New York City," he added.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE OTHER SIDE: OGONI TRIAL AND EXECUTIONS

The Nigerians are learning the hard way that the majority media and the international liberal left network is a dangerous foe. Black Americans can remember for generations how their actions were given a negative spin and their image distorted by white writers and their Black allies who subscribe to a leftist ideology. Pragmatic activists for social change always had to remember to be twice as careful and obey all of the laws scrupulously, to avoid becoming victims of police brutality, false arrest, unjust convictions, mob lynchings and hate bombings. The majority press could always be counted on to give a worst case scenario of the Blacks and a best case scenario of the whites involved. Blacks were presumed guilty while whites were presumed innocent.

Now in the Western media we see the Nigerians becoming victims of the same kind of racist double standard, depicted by misinformation and disinformation. The current outcry against the Nigerian Special Civil Disorders Tribunal's decision to execute Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others for the murder of four elders of the Ogoni Tribe is a case in point.

The fact that the murders took place in a gruesome and barbaric way in May of 1994 is not described in the news. The fact that Ken Saro-Wiwa formed a Youth Wing within the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) and unleashed a lawless reign of terror intimidating any who did not adopt the policies they advocated is not reported in the news.

The fact that they became a vigilante group loyal only to Saro-Wiwa, and in 1993

burned ballot boxes and prevented people from free assembly to discuss their views is not reported. The fact that in 1994 they invaded the palace, picked up the Ogoni People's Movement who disagreed with Ken Saro-Wiwa and murdered them in cold blood is not reported.

It is not reported that those who escaped the mindless killings called for government protection, and other law abiding citizens started wondering why a "group of bandits" should be allowed to be a law unto themselves, print their own flags, make their own laws, kill their neighbors—the Adonis, the Okrikas and the Nadokis, sack police stations, chase magistrates out of courts, beat up oil workers, blow up oil stations, put up 150 road blocks and make Ogoniland unsafe for business activity and human habitation.

It is not reported that only 1.27% of Nigeria's oil production comes from Ogoniland, and Shell Oil Company stopped production in May 1993 without decreasing total Nigerian oil output. The Adonis produce 23% of crude oil production in the Rivers State and have never had to resort to terrorist acts to control the oil companies. It is possible that Saro-Wiwa had motives other than environmental protection in his campaign of violence?

It is not reported that a federal court of appeals judge headed a special tribunal to try the suspects including Saro-Wiwa. They had free access to counsel of their choice. They intimidated potential prosecution witnesses. They had an open trial and the international press, and human rights groups

were free to come and observe.

Finally, it is not reported that the tribunal acquitted six of those on trial.

To read the wire service reports that have been uncritically accepted and copied by the American majority press, one would only imagine that an innocent intellectual had been framed and false allegations had been made, and an unjust decision made, and an unjustified execution had taken place. One would assume that a Nobel Peace nominee could not possibly be a murderer or a terrorist determined to overthrow the government. The Nigerian Government is presumed guilty. The man who killed the elders of his tribe is presumed innocent by a press that had made up its mind and doesn't want to be confused by any new facts.

To watch the outrage expressed by the Commonwealth, the European Union and the United States, one would think that Nigeria was not a sovereign nation with the right to conduct business and maintain law and order within its borders just as Red China, North Vietnam, North Korea, Syria, and many other nations are without our racist neocolonial interference.

Would the Nigerians do well to learn from the Black American experience and use the white power structure to achieve its own objectives? Perhaps it would have been better not to execute, in return for airplane landing rights and lifting restrictions on the travel of Nigerian High Officials and lifting restrictions due to alleged drug transshipment, charges and decertification.

President Mandela and other Africans could defend

the "engagement and dialogue" approach to bringing Nigeria back into the international community. Then the Coalition for Fairness to Nigeria could build support in America for an equitable United States policy replacing the policy of sanctions and isolation that some powerful forces among American Africans are advocating.

Now that the die is cast and the international campaign to destabilize and demonize the current Nigerian government is underway, there is a need for an honest approach. Someone like President Carter or Pope John Paul needs to look at both sides of the Ogoniland story. Someone needs to come from the high moral ground and objectively research, analyze and evaluate the facts. An open-minded delegation of African-American clergy should follow the example of America's Black press and go on a fact-finding mission to Nigeria. They should meet with the Nigerian political parties, the press, the human rights groups, even critics of General Abacha, advocates for civilian rule and minority rights. They should then return for a debriefing with the United States' State Department, the Congress and the President. "Truth crushed to earth can rise again" was one of Martin Luther King's favorite quotations. Nigeria should have faith that the non-violent peace maker America was right.

The generals of the military tribunal in Nigeria and General Abacha had just recently been commended by President Jimmy Carter for ending the cycle of violence. The coup and counter coup syndrome had been broken.

The new path to democracy had been clearly laid out by the Pope's Constitutional Conference and endorsed by the Head of State. They had just commuted the sentences of General Obasanjo and others who were slated for execution for attempting to assassinate General Abacha and his cabinet. Now all of these good, positive, constructive things are cast aside by the international media because of the Ogoni murder trial and executions, the January 1996 local elections are no longer considered a step in the right direction. The plan for state elections in 1997 are brushed off as unimportant. The commitment to hold federal elections in 1998 is scoffed at. Surely the arrogance of the British and Americans who have this attitude reminds us of the old colonialism, the new neocolonialism and the pervasive racism that Black Americans are well aware of. Now is the time for opinion making men and women to seize an historic opportunity and initiate a truth-seeking campaign so that a peace-process can have a chance in Nigeria.

Submitted by Reverend Maurice A. Dawkins, freelance writer for the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Black Media Incorporated. Dawkins was a candidate for the United States Senate in 1988 and has for forty years been in the forefront of the American Civil Rights Movement, and was a fighter for African Freedom with the American Committee on Africa, the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa and TransAfrica.

EDITORIAL

Black male prison population continues to grow

According to a recent report by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, 6.8 percent of all black males are in prison or jail compared to less than 1 percent of white male adults, not all white males. Recently, black leaders and inmates have protested federal sentencing rules which make penalties five times higher for crack cocaine, used mostly by blacks, than for powder cocaine, used mostly by whites.

While stiffer penalties for crack versus powder cocaine may account for the disparity between black males and white males in prison, it is irrelevant to the fact that more and more black men are turning to drugs. Without question, we say that the penalty should be equally stiff for drug use, sales and distribution.

Our major concern is—with the increasing choice by black males to use drugs, crack or anything else, as their escape—with who is supplying the drugs and poisoning the community?

And why there are not more arrests of the suppliers, dealers and distributors? The epidemic is out of control. Drug use and distribution must not be allowed to continue to grow.

Brd. of Ed thinks tax payers are glib

Dear Editor:

It is surprising, to me, how glibly the Board of Education thinks the taxpayers of Plainfield are. We are sold a "Bill of Goods" that Plainfield's educational system is bankrupt and there needs to be a change in order to turn the system around. Taking this into consideration, the community should wonder and question the motives of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools when they talk about the education of children and the quality of education.

It appears that the only motive the Board has is the perpetuation of the "Sugar Treat" now in place in Plainfield, especially the Board of Education. They can't see the Supervisor of Personnel being elevated to Director of Human Resources with an increase in salary (\$7000.00 to \$91,000.00 per annum when that Department failed monitoring? Plainfield's School system, like all bureaucratic agencies, adheres to the Peter Principle and the Director of Human Resources has risen to that level of incompetence and is being rewarded handsomely for it.

It behooves those of us who are interested in the quality of education in Plainfield to get involved in what's going on in the educational community and not fall for the rhetoric being foisted on us and demand accountability rather than lip service. A prime example is one of the Board members allegedly said

See GUILBLIE page 6

FROM CAPITOL HILL

Is Bosnia worth dying for?

by Asad Muhammad

The rhetorical question is begged in a plaintive headline on a national news magazine: "Is Bosnia Worth Dying For?" Well, I can answer that "no-brainer" for you, and maybe save you the \$2.95 (plus postage) you'll find in the process. In a word...No.

No. Democratic Party President Bill Clinton is no better than Democratic President Lyndon Johnson (or John F. Kennedy before him) who escalated the U.S. "peace-keeping action" in Vietnam.

No. Democrat President Jimmy Carter is no better than Democrat Jimmy Carter when he was in office, when he sent the "Delta Force" to free the U.S. Embassy hostages held by Iranian Islamic Revolutionaries.

No. President Clinton's proposed NATO force for Bosnia is no better than Republican Pres. George Bush's U.S.-dominated United Nations force which bombed Iraq into something resembling a parking lot.

No. America's "vital" general interests don't change. They are easily defined, and are easy to understand. America's vital general interests are directly related to the prosperity of General Electric, General Dynamics, General Motors.

So why is President Clinton beating the drum so loudly in belief of sending 20,000 U.S. forces 7,000 miles from bloody try to help patrol the bloody barbarism that is modern Bosnia? Because leading America into war and "police actions" (like the Korean "conflict," for example) is a part of the President's very Job Description itself.

It's written right there in the Constitution. I looked it up. In Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution it

says, *The President is by Commander in Chief of Army and Navy and head of executive departments, may grant reprieves and pardons, and it is never to meet an opportunity for military conflict which he doesn't like.*

It's in his job description. That's why military Clinton, who opposed U.S. military intervention in Vietnam (personally avoiding his own military service), is now clamoring for U.S. military intervention in Bosnia.

It's in the President's job description to advise the military and navy, which give arms and arms manufacturers an opportunity to use up military inventories, and to test the effectiveness of newly developed weapons. What more could go with the Presidential tenure, like greasing greivous wounds at Arlington National Cemetery and White House Rose Garden receptions.

Clinton now invites this President to be to commit U.S. forces if it meant that First Lt. or Lt. Junior Grade Chelsea Clinton, fresh out of military school was to be deployed to Bosnia to help defend him from that shady Bosnia peace deal!

After three weeks of strenuous negotiations, the accord was condemned by the Serbs. At least two Serbian leaders who were involved in the negotiations are wanted for trial before a War Crimes Tribunal for "ethnic cleansing" which has cost hundreds of thousands of lives, not to mention rapes, looting, pillaging, and even more refugees.

But of course now-15-year-old Chelsea Clinton is not a military officer, and if she was, it's written in some Pentagonese job description to ensure that relatives of politically connected big-wigs are not assigned to hazardous duties.

It's also written right there in the charter of the Republican (Tory) Party to approve massive amounts of money for such military enterprises. Unfortunately for President Clinton, however, this adventure comes in the midst of the campaign season, facing a gaggle of Republican contenders for his job.

As unusual as it may seem for Republicans (especially conservatives) like Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) and Phil Gramm (R-TX) to apparently leave their rich, military related industrial friends out on a limb by opposing this mission, I'm sure they're prepared to make up for it, if and when one of them gets President Clinton's job in 1996.

Their current opposition to the Bosnia mission is purely partisan, and it's inconceivable of them not to sincerely feign their conviction

PASTORS' WORD

Black candidate for Democratic primary is major mistake

by Rev. Reginald T. Jackson & Rayford S. Wheeler

We are now less than a year from the 1996 elections. In addition to the presidential and congressional elections, there will be a statewide election in the U.S. Senate. There will be no incumbent with the retirement of Senator Bill Bradley. For some time it appeared that the party nominees were set. The Republican nominee Rep. Dick Zimmer and Rep. Bob Torricelli.

There are two other Republican candidates, but Zimmer has the backing of the party leadership. Torricelli also has the backing of the party leadership, but now there is talk of another challenger for the nomination. Word is that the challenger will be black.

There has been discussion with Million Man March Statewide Coalition, black elected officials from around the state and in other quarters. One may have already come forward and offered himself and others are contemplating it with a supposed "se-

cret" meeting held to try to get behind a candidate.

Discussions held with black elected officials have made it clear that they do not believe a black candidate can win, but that it will be good for us to have a candidate who can make a good showing statewide and set up the possibility of a victory in the future.

We believe this effort to get a black candidate to run in the Democratic primary is a major mistake and again demonstrates how out of touch many of our black elected officials are. There are a lot of things wrong with the idea.

First, it is an effort to gain from the momentum of the Million Man March which many of them did not support. It would be a major mistake for blacks to come out of the march and immediately jump into a Democratic party primary.

The perception would be things have changed and blacks are still bound to the Democratic party. In addition, it would be another symbolic effort. We are tired of blacks running symbolic campaigns to make a

good showing. We don't need another show horse that doesn't show. Either run to win, or don't run at all.

Second, running for the United States Senate should not be our first priority. We have much more important things to do like getting our own house in order. Our people want to see things done locally by mayors, assembly persons and county persons before they talk about running for higher office.

Give us a record of achievement and performance by which we can evaluate you, not just your desire for higher office.

Third, it is very presumptuous for any black candidate to assume that blacks will support them just because they are black. There are several recent elections which show that this is not the case.

Voters have been so turned off by politicians, both black and white that they have stopped voting or they vote for who they think is the best candidate, regardless of race or color. Black candidates should not take black voters for granted.

Rather than running a candidate statewide with no hope of winning, we need to get together and do our homework. That means giving our people something to want to vote for by making some positive efforts in our communities, then by registering and educating voters so they are informed and less manipulated.

In addition to this, we must at the local, grassroots level begin to develop and groom people for office. People who have some independence and can think for themselves.

Too many people have been blocked by a system that is exclusive and closed to those who are not of the gang or go along to get along.

It is hard today to find somebody who would be happy to vote for. Far too often we vote against somebody rather than for somebody. We desperately need to provide opportunity and bring new people into office. Let us spend this year getting our house in order so that when a black candidate runs for statewide office we will organize and be enthusiastic about supporting them.

Part two of a two-part series

Inequality and imprisonment

by Dr. Manning Marable



The primary response by the U.S. government, elected officials and the corporate elite to the growing crisis of inequality has been the massive expansion of public and private security forces, and the incarceration of literally millions of black, Hispanic and poor people. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of police in the United States doubled.

As of 1993, there were 554,000 officers employed by local and state police forces. Beyond this, an additional 1.5 million private security forces are currently employed to guard office buildings, stores, affluent neighborhoods and corporate headquarters, all over the country.

Private patrol cars now cruise entire communities of upper to middle class Americans with their street closed off to outside traffic. Much of the new suburban housing being built today in "planned communities" is surrounded by walls and gates, wired for electronic surveillance, and guarded twenty-four hours a day by private security personnel.

Even more striking has been the massive expansion in recent years of the U.S. prison system. In 1979, the prison population tripled, from 500,000 in 1980 to 1,500,000 in 1995.

In the state of California alone,

between 1977 and 1992, the prison population soared from less than 20,000 to over 110,000. To appreciate this massive scale of imprisonment, one should consider the fact that the California state prison system, excluding the U.S. as a whole, is the second largest in the world after China.

As of 1992, out of every 100,000 residents of the U.S., 344 were in prison, and another 174 were in jail.

The racial oppression which defines U.S. society as a whole is most dramatically apparent within the criminal justice system and the prisons. Today, about one-half or 750,000 inmates in prisons and jails are African-Americans.

Statistically, out of every 100,000 black male residents in 1992, 2,678 were prisoners. For every 100,000 black men between age 30 to 34, 6,299 are imprisoned; for younger black men aged 24 to 29, the figure is 72,100 for every 100,000.

About one quarter of all African-American males in their twenties are today either in prison or jail, on probation or parole, awaiting trial or sentencing. What does this mean in terms of the typical daily experience of an average black male in the U.S. regarding the criminal justice system?

For author Adam Walinsky cites a recent study on African-American men aged 18 to 34 in Washington, DC. "On any given day in 1991, 15 percent of the men were in prison, 21 percent were on probation or parole, and 6 percent were being sought by the police or were on bond awaiting trial. Thus, the total involved with the

criminal justice system was 42 percent."

The study estimated that 70 percent of black men in the District of Columbia would be arrested before the age of 35, and that 85 percent would be arrested at some point in their lives.

Washington, DC's racist pattern of arrest is not unusual in nearby Baltimore in 1991, on any given day, 56 percent of the city's African-American males were in jail or prison, on probation or parole, awaiting trial or sentencing, and had warrants issued for their arrest.

These statistical profiles of racial oppression should not obscure the class dimensions of who are arrested and imprisoned in the U.S. In 1989, more than 14 million Americans were arrested. About two percent of the total male labor force in the U.S. today is in prison.

According to a 1991 survey of the U.S. Department of Justice, about one-third of all prisoners were unemployed at the time of their arrests. Only 55 percent held full-time jobs.

About two thirds of all prisoners have less than a high school level education, and few marketable skills which permit them to be competitive in the labor market.

The prisons of the U.S. are vast

warehouses for the poor and unemployed, for low wage workers and the poorly educated, and most especially, for Latino and African-American males. White collar criminals, those who embezzle hundreds of millions of dollars, are rarely given sentences.

The wealthy and powerful almost never go to prison for the crimes they commit. But for the most oppressed, prison is frequently an improvement in one's life circumstances: free health care, three meals a day, shelter and some modest training programs.

Today, there are hundreds of thousands more black men who are in prison or within the criminal justice system than are enrolled in colleges or universities. A young black man has statistically a greater likelihood of being jailed or arrested than obtaining a job which adequately supports himself, his partner and/or his family.

It is this draconian reality which gives Louis Farrakhan such legitimacy and authority among millions of African-Americans today. Many blacks are convinced that a political and economic conspiracy exists which blocks black advancement within the social order.

Most politicians have repudiated affirmative action and the enforcement of civil rights. An entire generation of young black men have become the central targets of the criminal justice system, and no one within the white establishment seems to give a damn.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 275 newspapers and is featured by 80 radio stations across the U.S. and internationally.

DRUMS IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

The other side responds

by Todd Burroughs

WASHINGTON—The following are edited excerpts from a letter I received a few weeks ago from someone who took umbrage at one of my recent columns. The writer is a white female from Maryland who works as a nurse. I have decided to let the letter, with her permission, as a guest commentary because I believe it shows a central problem of black-white race relations—the perception by many of both races that the other side is the enemy, that controls the framework of the debate.—Todd S. Burroughs.

Dear Mr. Burroughs: I am a 40-year-old white woman who has just read your current column in *The Washington News Observer*. Racism in America has been a hot issue lately. I thought I would write you with a few of my thoughts.

How receptive would you be to a message from a group of people who called you names and stereotyped everyone in your group? After all, [Nation of Islam leader] Louis Farrakhan (in his speech at the Million Man March) call every ethnic group in America racist except African-Americans, calling everyone else a series of names. I turned the TV off. He never gave me even an impression of credibility.

Every time a white person has an opinion that is different from black people,

one who is black, that person is labeled a racist.

I heard part of Oprah Winfrey's show the afternoon of the acquittal of O.J. Simpson. I was shocked to hear her say that discussions occurred in family and social functions that talked about white people on probation or parole. I have never heard that talk about blacks by whites in family, church or social situations. It is considered by most whites to be unacceptable (behavior). Apparently, most blacks feel that whites are "fair game," anything can be said about them in social settings....

According to the blacks who do the talking, there is racism behind every bush and tree, as well as under any rock. However, I have lived in the D.C. area most of my life, and all the prejudice I have seen is prejudice from blacks directed to whites. For example: My daughter, when she was in the 3rd grade, was spit on in the face by a black girl. No words were exchanged between them. My daughter was ignored. The next morning, the teacher, who is white, said nothing was done because they didn't want to "hurt the self-esteem" of the black child. How would you have felt? Let my daughter's self-esteem impression?

I attended Bowie State University from 1991 until 1993. Every social event was for black students. Every building I, named after black people,

Every student government concern was a black concern. The needs of whites, as well those of other minorities on campus, were totally ignored. If this situation had been reversed, the university would have been held up to national ridicule.

At this stage in my life, I am tired

of being called names and hearing about how terrible I am. I have never participated in, tolerated or advocated any form of racial attitude or act of racism. Generations of my family have never, to my knowledge, been part of acts of racism. Please keep in mind: Many people who are now Amer-

See OTHER SIDE page 10

CITY NEWS

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YOUTH BEAT

KIDS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
DUNELLEN—Lunch with Santa at the Dunellen United Methodist Church. For more info call 752-7437.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
WAYNE—"The Wind in the Willows Winter," a creative one-person adaptation of the beloved children's classic by Kenneth Grahame. For ticket info call 201-595-2371.

THRU DECEMBER 11
JERSEY CITY—"The Adolescent in Literature" program at Jersey City State College from 4:30 - 6:50 p.m. every Monday. For more info call 201-200-2120.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
WESTFIELD—"Building a Cookie and Candy Holiday House." Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County 4-H Program will hold this workshop at 7-8:30 p.m. For more info call 808-654-9654.

Send Kid Calendar info to
City News 144 North Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Athletes encourage kids to stay in school

NEWARK—The Newark Public Schools recently teamed up with the YMCA of Newark to sponsor "Sports Legends II" a two-day long visit from professional athletes on November 27 and 28.

The athletes helped to raise funds on behalf of the YMCA and donate their time to speak with Newark's elementary and secondary students. Their message emphasized the importance of a solid foundation which can only happen through a good education.

Elmaro Webster, Assistant Director for the After School Youth Development Program and former basketball player for the New York Nets said, "This is a wonderful opportunity to remind our students that they must strive to receive a good education, the real groundwork to ensure their future success." Webster said, "An athlete's career only lasts for a short period of time but a college education opens doors that last for a lifetime," he added.

Safe haven youth get pen pals in Togo

EAST ORANGE—Youth participants in the East Orange Community Policing Safe Haven After-school Program were recently treated to a special visitor from the country of Togo, West Africa. Jean Paul Sewavi, a leadership trainer and youth employment program secretary for the YMCA in Lome, Togo visited the Safe Haven Program to kick-off the Safe Haven/Togo International Pen Pal Program.

Sewavi made a brief video presentation about his country and responded to questions and comments from the young Safe Haven participants.

According to Clynhia Trueitt, Director of the Safe Haven Program, The International Pen Pal Club was established to develop relationships between the Safe Haven participants and youth from an African YMCA.

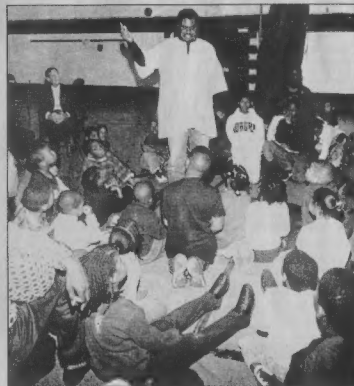
She added that the objectives are to provide the youth with an appreciation for cultural differences and to enhance a global awareness of their environment.

"The club is intended to also increase an awareness of our African heritage. Each month the youth will write to youngsters in Togo as well as send clothing and other items."

The Safe Haven Program, now in

its third year, is the recreational component of the Police/Community Partnership Grant for the City of East Orange. The program is funded through the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice with matching funds from the city of East Orange.

The program runs concurrent with the school year and is free for youth five to 18 years old. It operates Monday through Saturday and offers evening meals, homework assistance, swimming lessons, field trips and other activities. Enrollment is limited. For information call Clynhia Trueitt at 201-673-5588.



Sewavi talks to a group of very attentive Safe Haven students.

Photo courtesy of Glen Friesen.

Youth essay contest launched by United Way

NEWARK—United Way of Essex and West Hudson's Community Service Council is sponsoring its first Youth/Community Essay Contest. The essay topic will focus on "How Youth Can Work With Adults to Solve Critical Community Issues."

Contestants must range from age 15 through 18 and reside in one of the communities served by United Way which include the Oranges, Maplewood, Irvington, Newark, Belleville, Nutley, Harrison, Kearny, and North Arlington. There will be one winner selected from each community.

"Youth input in decision making is essential to the actual process on how our problems are addressed. They should have the opportunity to serve and be served," stated Gregory Jackson, director of the Community Service Council.

The contest stemmed from United Way's Crusade for Children and Families, a local strategic initiative involving activities aimed at solving problems facing children and families.

Essays will be judged by a community-based committee on the following criteria: clear goals, objectives, and outcomes; community based; family focus; cultural relevance; marketing potential; comprehensive design; and soundness of design.

The essays should be three pages, typed, single-spaced, and mailed to Essay Committee, United Way Community Service Council, 439 Main Street, Orange, NJ 07050.

Contest winners will be notified during the first week of January and announced January 15th during the United Way Community Service Council's "Reinvest in the Dream"

community symposium.

Winning essays will be published in the local newspapers and Community Service Council annual report. Each winner will receive a \$250 savings bond and be invited to share their vision with other youth, community, and business leaders. For more information on the essay contest contact Gregory D. Jackson at 675-5500.

Plainfield High School Chorus holds benefit concert

PLAINFIELD—The 35-member Plainfield High School Chorus will have the opportunity to visit the land of Mozart and the Trapp Family in the upcoming Easter—if they reach their fundraising goal of the \$70,000 needed to make the trip. And musical director Stefanie R. Minate has set her sights on raising the \$70,000.

A first step on the road to Austria is a performance on December 7 at a corporate fund-raiser at the Plainfield Public Library.

The Plainfield Cultural and Heritage Commission already has pledged \$3,000 to help the students attend the Musical Salute to Austria in April, being organized to celebrate Austria's millennium anniversary as a nation state.

The Concert Chorus was invited to participate and to be a representative

from New Jersey at the celebrations.

"For the chorus to perform in Austria is an opportunity of a lifetime," said Minate. "The event will have a profound impact on each student through cultural exposure and long-lasting personal enrichment," she said.

The performance schedule calls

for the students to leave in April to sing in Austria at Vienna and Salzburg and at Munich, Germany.

The students have planned a series of fund-raisers including: a winter bazaar, flea market and raffle drawing on Dec. 14; and public concerts from December through February.

Enter the CyberKids writing contest

ATLANTA, GA—Turner Home Entertainment and Mountain Lake Software are sponsoring the second annual CyberKids/CyberTeens Magazine Writing and Arts Contest to encourage children to develop their writing and art skills.

CyberKids and CyberTeens are World Wide Web sites on the Internet that include articles, product reviews, puzzles, fiction, art, an extensive database of links to other Web sites and Web

pages where kids can post messages.

Contestants may enter one of the three categories: fiction, non-fiction and art. The deadline is Dec. 31. Contest entry forms and rules can be obtained by sending email, along with name, age and address, to contests@mlake.com or by sending snail mail to CyberKids/CyberTeens Contest, Mountain Lake Software, Inc., 298 Fourth Avenue, Box 401, San Francisco, CA, 94118-2468.

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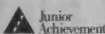


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HEALTH CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6
NEW BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is offering a free seminar on Facial Cosmetic Surgery in the Clinical Academic Building, Rm. 3405 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive at the Plainfield Senior Squat at 700 W. 7th St. from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

MONTHLY
UNION—HIV/AIDS Caregiver support group every 2nd and 4th Thursday at Union Hospital GRAND Center at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-596-3177.

ATTENTION
PLAINFIELD—Multispecialty Regional Medical Center offers community health education classes and support groups for cancer, childbirth, Lameza, diabetes, etc. For more info call 908-668-2000.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
WESTFIELD—TB, AIDS, STDs and Hepatitis: Medical Complications of Drug and Alcohol Misuse. Taught by Patricia O'Brien, R.N.C., CAC. For further course info call 908-233-8810.

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

NOW THRU DECEMBER 17
ASSURANCE—Tambourines to Glory by Langston Hughes presented by Dunbar Repertory Company and Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church. For ticket info call 908-774-3093.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
NEWARK—Bethany Baptist Church Holiday Shopping Extravaganza. Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 275 West Market St. For more info call 201-623-8161.

LINDEN—Mystic Vision Players present its annual "Tulane Circus" at 7:30 p.m. at the Linden Presbyterian Church. Refreshments will be served. For ticket info call 908-925-1388.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
PLAINFIELD—St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church will hold its Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols. The festival starts at 5 p.m. at 368 Sumner Ave. Refreshments will be served following the service. Call 908-756-3393 for more info.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
PLAINFIELD—Cruscent Avenue Presbyterian Church presents its annual Christmas Carol Program at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more info call 908-756-2468.

Gullible

Continued from page 4

"Why are the people in the area of Washington School crying? The other side pay for the expenses of the facilities." Evidently, it alluded to the fact that they were under the illusion that Washington School is located in the 4th Ward. It is interesting that those entrusted with the responsibility of educating our children don't know the boundaries nor the historical significance of the City they are supposed to be governing. For informational purposes, Washington Elementary School is located in the 3rd Ward. Further, it is rumored that the Board of Education is contemplating purchasing the properties on West 3rd Street from Spooner Avenue to John Street to complete the plans to construct the Community School that will replace Washington Elementary School. Plainfield cannot afford to lose any more tax revenue.

I can understand the need to upgrade the educational goals of the district and graduate educated, productive children capable of functioning in a "Hi-Tech" world but before more money is expended to demolish and rebuild another Washington Elementary School and rename it Washington Community School the Superintendent and the Board of Education should take a long hard look at the quality of some of its teaching staff to insure that they are sincerely dedicated to teaching our children or are they only interested in being employed with an exceptional income?

I only hope that Plainfielders won't get caught up in the rhetoric by the fast slick talk and high blown phrases aimed at appealing to your emotions. We have heard too many phrases like "It takes a whole village to raise a child." To those who utter them they're catchy, but they really don't believe them, they just serve their purpose. Let us hold them accountable and make them put their money where mouth is.

Edward N. Long
 Plainfield

Neighborhood corporation holds business seminar

NEWARK—The Martin Luther King Jr. Neighborhood Development Corporation is sponsoring a "Business and Franchise Opportunities" Seminar on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gillian Student Union Building at Jersey City College. For more info call Delores Wheat at 201-433-1632 or Dan Wiley at 201-200-2078.

New study shows TV still lagging behind in diversity

NEW BRUNSWICK—Recent increases in the number of TV channels haven't brought about the expanded representation of women, ethnic minorities and the aged that many early supporters of cable had envisioned, according to a study directed by a Rutgers researcher.

The study's results are reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media* and was conducted by a team of experts headed by Robert Kube, a psychology and associate professor of communication at Rutgers University.

The team analyzed more than 1,000 randomly sampled TV "moments" and assessed the gender, race,

ethnicity and age of people on TV, both real and fictional.

"There has been only limited movement toward a more accurate, proportional representation on TV of minority groups across the 35 different channels offered by a typical cable system," said Kube, a widely published authority and the author of *Television and the Quality of Life: How Viewing Shapes Everyday Experience*, published in 1990.

The study also found that the average TV viewer is more than twice as likely to encounter a scene in which males—rather than females—predominate on screen. Of people on TV who are middle-aged—between 40 and 65—men

were more than four times as likely as women to predominate.

Of people aged 65 and over, men are featured nearly six times more often than women. When women are featured, the chances are better than seven in 10 that they'll be younger adults, between the ages of 20 and 40.

"Men are permitted to age on TV and are often presented as authorities and experts while women are most likely to appear if they are deemed attractive and youthful," Kube said.

Regardless of the type of channel, the study found that TV is an adult endeavor. Adults account for some 90 percent of all the people on TV. In the real world, only 71 percent of the U.S. population is 20 years of age or older, according to the 1990 census.

People over the age of 65 make up 12.5 percent of the actual population but account for less than 4 percent of the people on TV; a substantial under-representation, Kube said.

For children, the study found that those under 13 are on only about a third as often as their actual numbers would indicate. Teen-agers are featured less than 5 percent of the time, although they account for about 10 percent of the population.



Four New Jersey Women were honored by the College of Saint Elizabeth with its first Catholic Women of Achievement Awards at an on-campus event in October. (seated l to r) are nominees Sister M. Christine Reyelt, M.D. medical director of the comprehensive Care center for AIDS at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson; Kathy Difore, founder of Several Sources Foundation which runs shelters for expectant mothers in Bergen and Morris Counties; (standing, l to r) nominees Sue C. Regan, associate athletics director Seton Hall University; Sister Jacqueline Burns, president of the College of Saint Elizabeth; Morrisville who presented the Blue Ribbon panel which selected the recipients and nominee Kent Manahan, NJN-TV anchorwoman. Approximately 250 guests attended the afternoon event.

Photo courtesy of College of Saint Elizabeth.

State bar distributes free women's rights directory

NEW BRUNSWICK—An updated version of the New Jersey State Bar Association's (NJBSA) Women's Rights Issues Directory of Attorneys has been distributed statewide to more than 2,000 organizations.

The free directory, which was developed by the NJBSA's Women's Rights Section to help women

exactly find locally practicing attorneys, lists more than 350 NJBSA member attorneys who have expressed an interest in representing clients in matters of special concern to women.

Free copies of the directory are available through the New Jersey State Bar Association. For more information, call 908-937-7524.

Don't scoff at that cough

Do you have a dry cough that never seems to go away and often keeps you up at night? If so, you are not alone. Millions of Americans suffer with a persistent cough, which many ignore.

Don't scoff at that cough! A persistent cough, especially an unproductive one, is one of the primary symptoms of bronchial asthma. In fact, a recent study shows that nearly 50 percent of people with a persistent dry cough had undiagnosed asthma. In most cases, people with cough due to undiagnosed asthma do not experience difficulty breathing and have little or no wheezing. As a result, they do not associate their cough with asthma.

Instead, they treat it with cough drops, cough syrup, cold or allergy medicine. But, if the cough is due to asthma there are more effective treatments available.

"A good indication of whether your cough is asthma-related is its duration. If a cough lasts longer than four weeks, you should see a doctor," says William Corrao, M.D., Clinical

Professor of Medicine, Brown University School of Medicine.

Other symptoms include a dry and repetitive cough that usually occurs both day and night. It may be made worse by cold air, exercise, or a cold and can flare up during allergy season.

Natal cases of persistent cough are due to asthma. Acute respiratory tract infection, chronic bronchitis, gastroesophageal reflux disease, allergy, and side effects of some medications can all cause or worsen a persistent cough. However, the differences between these coughs are subtle and should be determined by a physician.

Treating Asthmatic Cough

Asthma is caused by an inflammation of the airways in the lungs. An asthmatic cough is the body's reaction to the irritation of inflamed airways that are over-sensitive to triggers such as pollen, animal dander and smoke. If you have asthma, or if you suspect you might, see a physician. A persistent cough should not be ignored.

BUF holds awards dinner

PLAINFIELD—The Black United Fund Health Services Corporation (B.U.F.H.S.) is hosting a Volunteer Awards Dinner on Thursday, December 7 at 6 p.m. to honor the volunteers of the B.U.F.H.S. The dinner will be held at the B.U.F.H.S. Community Center Complex, located at 403 W. 7th St. in Plainfield.

Game night for kids

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Kumon Learning Center is sponsoring a "Game Night" for kids on Friday, Dec. 8 at the United Presbyterian Church (Friendship Hall). Games will include math, computer activities and puzzles.

Prizes will be awarded to contest participants and a free two-week Kumon trial certificate will be raffled. Admission is free. The church is located at 525 E. Front Street.

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METUCHEN—A Grand Night For Singing: The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical revue. Rhythm Theatre Group, 314 Main St. Reserve your tickets now, call 908-546-0552.

THRU DECEMBER 17
ELIZABETH—The Elizabeth Playhouse presents: The Petrified Forest, by Robert Emmet Sherwood. For more info call 355-0077.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8
NEW YORK—An evening of poetry at the American Council for the Arts Exhibition Auditorium: Chocolate Waters at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call 212-223-2787 ext 233.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
LONG BRANCH—Christmas Dance at the Spanish Fraternity sponsored by El Centro de Unidad Latina Inc. at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-870-9618 or 571-1504.

NEW YORK—"Jazz in the Big Apple," program for young people. For tickets call CenterCharge at 212-721-6500.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
NEW YORK—Bus Trip to see "Alvin Ailey Dance Company" in NYC. Bus departs from Essex County College at 6 p.m. For more info call 201-877-3203.

NEWARK—"Gallery Talk, The Business of Textile Design," Newark School of Fine & Industrial Arts, 12 noon, for information call 201-705-3880.

NEW YORK—"Jazz Talk: Drop Me Off In Harlem, Part 1," hosted by Reid Badger also brings together preeminent jazz scholars Albert Murray, Dan Morgenstern and Frank Driggs. For ticket info call 212-721-6500.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
NEWARK—Art opening at the Newark Museum, "The American Medical Sculpture Association," 5 p.m., for more info call 201-596-6550.

Stars come out for higher education

HOLLYWOOD, CA—Lou Rawls and his "Parade of Stars" will come together once again in support of higher education and the United Negro College Fund, (UNCF) with the 16th annual "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" Telethon. The event will be broadcast on Saturday, January 6 1996 nationwide.

Some of the biggest names in show business will appear on the main stage from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. to urge viewers' pledges to The College Fund. Participating stars include Alex Trebek, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Johnny Gill, who will co-host the show from Apollo Theatre in New York City, Brandy, Ray Charles, MC Hammer, Oprah Winfrey, Jon Secada, Shanice, Naughty By Nature, Soul For Real, CeCe Winans, Freddie Jackson and The Temptations.

"This is our sixteenth spectacular," says Rawls, "and we're committed to giving viewers what they've come to expect from the Parade of Stars: quality entertainment for a quality cause. There's no greater cause than educating our young people, and UNCF schools represent the essence of quality education."

The Telethon is sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. with co-sponsor, Kellogg's Frosted Flakes, Associate sponsor American Airlines, contributing sponsor HBO; Men's Wearhouse; E Style from Ebony and Spiegel; Avon; General Motors; Church's Chicken; Eckerd/American Health and Beauty Aids Institute and NationsBank. Special support was provided by American Union Radio Network, The McDonald's Corporation and the Eight-Street Outdoor Advertising Association.



CeCe Winans displays a UNCF sweat shirt.

Photo courtesy of UNCF.

Newark Boys Chorus to perform in East Orange

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange Public Library is hosting a concert with musical guest The Newark Boys Chorus on Sunday, December 3, at 2 p.m. in the East Orange Room. The Newark Boys Chorus is world-renowned as Newark's "Musical Ambassadors" and a symbol of the renaissance of Newark.

Newark Boys Chorus presents

over forty concerts per season, performing a wide range of choral literature highlighting masterworks in the Western tradition and African-American composers. They have toured Japan, Italy, China and Czechoslovakia, and frequently appear on television.

The concert is free. For additional information call 201-266-5608.

Wine tasting benefit

NEWARK—The 14th annual Wine tasting Benefit for the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Newark will take place on Thursday, December 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Newark Museum. Proceeds will go to the repair of the Central Ward Club's swimming pool. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. For more info call 201-242-1200.

Roche and Carter hold annual toys for tot Christmas party

NEWARK—It's that time of year again. Time for the 19th annual Roche and Carter Toys for Tots Christmas Party.

The party will be held on Thursday, December 7 at the Newark Symphony Hall Terrace Ballroom and will run from 5 p.m. through midnight. Admission to the party is free with one new and unwrapped toy.

"It is our hope to bring a smile to as many youngsters as we can during the holiday season," said the partners. "We are committed to giving back to the communities where we practice law."

The firm, which is frequently involved in community service, has offices in Newark, East Orange, Elizabeth and Plainfield.

Entertainment will be provided by Valerie Adams of the New Dimensions Band, The Newark Boys Chorus, Jazz by Arthur Jones and Gwen Smith, Blues by the J.D. Band of Plainfield, the Roseville Presbyterian Church Men's Choir and the Messengers for Christ of Jersey City.

Roche and Carter both added, "This is a very special opportunity for adults to gather in a warm and festive atmosphere to benefit the children of the more than twenty charities receiving toys from this event. We are most appreciative of the efforts of the thousands of generous donors who have helped to make this annual event successful."

Roots: The Gift to air on AHN

NEW YORK, NY—The African Heritage Movie Network (AHN), with hosts Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, presents one of America's greatest family sagas, *Roots: The Gift*, as part of AHN's Movie Theatre Special. The movie will air Tuesday, December 12 at 8 p.m. on WPXI.

The *Roots* saga expands this holiday theme drama featuring characters from Alex Haley's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Roots: The Gift* stars LeVar Burton, as Kunta Kinte, the Mandinka warrior, hoping to someday return to Africa, and Louis Gossett, Jr., who reprises the role of the resourceful American-born slave Fiddler. Together on Christmas Eve, 1773, Kunta Kinte and Fiddler risk their lives to give other slaves the most precious gift of all: freedom. This story also stars Shaun Cassidy and Avery Brooks as Moya.

AHN is finalizing negotiations with Louis Gossett, Jr. and his company Logo Entertainment to produce blockbuster made-for-television movies which will begin production in 1996.



Pictured, (l to r) Louis Gossett, Jr., LeVar Burton and Shaun Cassidy. Photo courtesy of AHN.

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5.750%	7.750%	\$500,000	\$5.84	2% annual & 5% lifetime

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BUSINESS

BUSINESS CALENDAR

THRU DECEMBER
FAIRFIELD—Computer Competence Seminars at Data Quest Systems. For more info call 201-882-8723.

THRU DECEMBER 14
HACKENSACK—Training for Trades and Technology nine-week course at Bergen County Technical Schools. For more info call 201-345-6000, ext. 2293.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
EDISON—The New Jersey Service & Contractors Expo at the Raritan Center. For more info call 1-800-419-7775.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
NEWARK—The Annual Meeting of the Regional Business Partnership will be held at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
SECAUCUS—Business Success Trade Show and Expo at the Meadowlands Hilton from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. For more info call 201-797-1484.

DECEMBER 13 - 16
NEW ORLEANS—First Annual MegaMarketplace 95 at the Marriott Hotel. For more info call 504-529-4312.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
SOMERVILLE—Raritan Valley Community College Center for International Business & Education presents: New Jersey Business Opportunities in the Mexican Market Two Views Long & Short Term Issues. Congressman Richard Zimmer will be the guest speaker.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26
HOBOKEN—Business and Professional Market. Network with others in your field or in related fields and develop preferred contacts. For more info call 201-799-1244.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
UNION—How to obtain a Micro-loan for businesses in Union County. Sponsored by Union County Economic Development Corporation. For more info call 908-247-2356.

Send Business Calendar
info to City News
PO Box 1774, 144 North
Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07061

Finding federal contracts

by Paul J. Krupin

How do you find out what the government is buying when federal procurements below the \$100,000 simplified acquisition threshold are no longer to be advertised in the *Commerce Business Daily*?

"Get on the bidder's list," says attorney Paul J. Krupin who's created a new and useful tool for contractor hopefuls for getting on the bidder's lists at over 1,700 major federal contracting, procurement, and acquisition centers nationwide.

The Fed-Pro Database lists the agency, internal organization, mailing address, and phone number of each major federal government agency procurement, contracting and acquisition office nationwide. Supplied on a 3 1/2 inch diskette in ASCII, it is readily compatible with spreadsheet and word processing software.

Krupin, a U.S. Department of Energy facilities transition program manager, attorney and former procurement official with over 20 years federal experience, says he compiled the database after finding out the government had never made it available in a computer-ready format.

According to him it is particularly useful for target marketing to the federal government. "You make out the bidder's list you miss the earliest and best opportunity to get in," Krupin said.

For additional information on the database call 1-800-457-8746.

and then get on as many bidder's lists as you like nationwide."

News of government solicitations (Requests for Proposals, Quotes, and Bids) will be sent to businesses whenever the government agencies solicit offer their bidder's lists. Contractors can also use the database to make requests for contract procurement plans, procurement forecasts, and other critical information important for business development and marketing.

Krupin said being on bidder's lists is one of the critical ways to find out about contracting opportunities. Because of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, most solicitations below \$100,000 are no longer advertised in the *Commerce Business Daily*.

Therefore, he says it is very important for small businesses in particular because many federal purchases never make it into the *Commerce Business Daily* or up on the electronic commerce bid boards if the agencies are able to locate competitive small business suppliers of products and services off their in-house bidder's lists. "If you're not on the bidder's list you miss the earliest and best opportunity to get in," Krupin said.

For additional information on the database call 1-800-457-8746.

How does your savings plan stack up?

by J. Edward Diamond

Some people are saving for the perfect retirement, complete with world travel and unlimited time for golf. Others are putting money aside so that they can afford a college education for young children or buy a better home. And some others are just trying to get ahead of accumulated debts. Whatever your financial dream may be, if you are like the majority of New Jersey residents recently surveyed by Dine Securities, you know that you must actively save and invest to make it come true.

Late last spring, agents of Dine Securities of New York, Inc. questioned the financial decision maker in more than 250 New Jersey households about their financial goals and the investment practices they are employing to reach them. The results proved that contrary to the national portrait being painted of Americans as spendthrifts, the residents of New Jersey are actively saving for the future and are optimistic about reaching their goals.

The details of how these people are handling their money provides an excellent source of saving and investing tips, as well as an easy benchmark for your own efforts.

Define your goals

Before you begin, think about your long-term financial goals and what it will take to achieve them. If you are like the majority of New Jersey residents, "having as much money as I need to retire" will be your top priority. The other financial dreams mentioned, in order of importance, are being able to pay for children's education, paying off debts and owning a home.

Educate yourself

While you will certainly want to seek out expert advice on this important subject, make sure you take some time to familiarize yourself with the basics. Surprisingly few New Jersey residents surveyed (19 percent) felt they could accurately describe a set of everyday financial terms/products. Check your library or bookstore for one of the many financial "how-to" books and publications that are available, or consider attending a seminar or adult education class on investing.

Know your savings/investment temperament

Every saving and investment vehicle carries with it a certain amount of risk, whether it is the risk that you will not grow your assets sufficiently to meet your goal or the risk that you will lose money. Virtually everyone from New Jersey described themselves as either "Conservative" or "Moderate" investors, leading you to believe they would not be interested in investments that placed their principal at risk. And yet, when questioned further, more than one-quarter said they are willing to accept temporary down swings (losses exceeding 15 percent) in their investments in the interest of achieving long-term growth. A realistic understanding of your risk tolerance will help you better evaluate your saving and investment options.

Seek professional advice

It may seem that everyone from your next-door-neighbor to your brother-in-law is ready to offer you financial guidance. And, in fact, New Jersey residents cite friends and relatives as the single most common popular source of such advice. Unfortunately, this well-intentioned help is not usually based on an expert's analysis or an understanding of your particular situation. A far better way to develop a sound, long-term savings and investment plan is with the help of a professional financial advisor.

Start early and save regularly

Right now, your financial goal may seem unattainable, but it's probably within your reach if you start early and save regularly. Recognizing this, 70 percent of those surveyed in New Jersey are involved in a systematic savings program, with most of them putting money aside once or twice a month.

Save as much as comfortably possible

No one wants to sacrifice the present for the future by trying to save too much. But, you need make sure you are saving as much as you can, as early as you can, in order to reach your goal. On average, New Jersey savers put aside \$6,600 each

year, with the low just under \$5,000 for households with annual incomes between \$35,000 and \$75,000 and the high close to \$15,000 for households with annual incomes in excess of \$125,000.

Consider all your saving and investment options

The typical New Jersey resident keeps the largest portion of his or her liquid assets at a banking institution. This situation changes however with the amount of money available for investment—wealthier New Jersey households turn more often to a mutual fund company or a full service brokerage firm.

Wherever you decide to keep the bulk of your money, consider investing at least a portion in the securities markets (stocks and bonds). While these markets carry more risk than some other options, they have also, historically, provided the greatest long-term growth potential. A large number of people in New Jersey obviously seek this potential, holding 25 percent of their liquid assets directly in either in stocks and bonds or in mutual funds that invest in stocks and bonds.

Track your progress

Saving and investing is an ongoing process. Make an effort to stay on top of your financial situation, tracking the progress of investments you hold and investigating new opportunities as they arise. And remember that the plan that meets your current needs may not continue to suit you as your circumstances change. For example, while the most important goal for New Jersey savers aged 21-29 is owning a home, the next age group (30-39) is more concerned with paying for children's education, and savers aged 40 and over are primarily interested in a financially secure retirement.

Whether you have found you are doing better than these fellow New Jersey residents, or trailing a bit behind, congratulate yourself on having a plan and pursuing your financial dreams. And if you have no plan in place, take a tip from your neighbors and get started!

Rape case

Continued from page 1

been stationed in Okinawa since June this year.

Three lawyers, Eric V. Ross of Atlanta, Michael J. Griffith of Southampton, L.L. New York and Charles Beach of Clinton, TN have never met the serviceman but they plan to defend him. The lawyers say they've been in contact with relatives of the accused serviceman and are concerned about the "coaching" of them by Japanese investigators.

They say they have doubts about whether the current Japanese lawyers, whose fees are being paid by the U.S. military, are acting aggressively enough to represent the serviceman.

"They may be under a lot of pressure to do the right thing," said Mr. Griffith, who is a partner in a law firm that specializes in representing Americans arrested overseas. The American lawyers are seeking to hire Japanese investigators in an effort to determine what the men were doing on the day of the rape and to evaluate any physical evidence linking them to the crime.

The American authorities were originally led to the suspects by a fourth serviceman who had been with them earlier in the same evening and said he heard them discuss plans for abducting a girl.

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Revolution

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By hatred, the big money interests trample over the political and economic landscape like a herd of runaway elephants.

Will the future be a nightmare in which whites and blacks drop down in a sea of fear and hatred, their ships down in the night, while the yachts of a few millionaires glide blithely over the surface?

Or will it be a dream in which all Americans—regardless of color, ethnicity, gender, faith, and sexual orientation—join our ships to rise together on a wave of economic growth, and deny passage to the pirates that seek to plunder working people?

The answer depends, in large measure, on whether the leaders of the labor and Civil Rights movements in the 1990s step up to the challenge.

By the middle of the next century, most Americans will be people of color. Those with origins in Africa and Asia, South and Central America and the Caribbean will outnumber those whose ancestors came from Europe.

When that day comes, America will face a day of judgment—in moral and in practical terms—because it will be inescapably true that America's future will depend on the achievement of those whose God-given potential has been held back by discrimination and deprivation.

This requires the labor movement to reach out aggressively to people of color and to the lowest-paid workers in America. Fortunately, the new leadership of the AFL-CIO understands this, and is launching an unprecedented campaign to organize these hard-working men and women.

In return, wherever union members walk picket lines in pursuit of economic justice, leaders of the NAACP and other Civil Rights organizations must be there, with the same spirit that brought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Memphis.

This alliance must extend from the workplace to the community, and all the way to the halls of Congress. Unions and Civil Rights groups must form a powerful legislative and political force to fight for labor reforms, and to improve the living standards and working conditions of those men and women who do not yet have the power of collective bargaining.

Issues like a minimum wage increase, workplace safety protections, maintaining a strong Earned Income Tax Credit and Medicaid must be our mutual concern.

To win justice for working families, union and NAACP members must march together on the road to freedom, sing together from a communal hymnal, and struggle together to change the course of history. That is just what we will be doing in the months and years ahead.

News

Continued from page 3

to be growing even today," said Joseph M. Sellers of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. "Frequently, the white employees were promoted over more qualified black employees, who then had to train the white employees," Sellers said. Circuit City, which nationally rings up \$4 billion in annual sales of televisions and electronic equipment, has a record of racking up big profits with a strong base of black customers.

—RICHMOND, VA

Other side

Continued from page 4

came to this country after the Civil War.

I think that racial issues are at an impasse in the country because whites have not accepted the responsibility that blacks think they should. Until the name-calling stops, and some of the past forgotten—especially those that none of us had a part in—progress will continue to not occur.

Some accommodations need to take place on both sides. Unprecedented civil rights gains have occurred in this country (and, indeed, the whole world) in the last 30 to 40 years. Instead of building on these gains, blacks have complained so much that I fear they will be ignored. And if black issues are ignored, progress will not occur.

All of us, as Americans, have much more in common than we have differences.

Inflammatory and inaccurate articles, such as yours, do nothing but cause the racial divide to deepen and widen.

Sincerely,
(Name withheld by request)

Todd Burroughs currently is in the Journalism doctoral program of the University of Maryland at College Park.

Take a stand

Continued from page 1

This health care program provides coverage for the poorest Americans and one-quarter of American children. These cuts, coupled with the \$70 billion from Medicare, will likely force hospitals to close.

✓ \$81 billion in welfare programs, including AFDC. 15 million people are served by this cash assistance program, of which two-thirds are children. The cuts eliminate assistance for 3.3 million children simply because their paternity has not been established, and 77,000 children because they were born to mothers under the age of 18. The cuts eliminate the JOBS program, which provides education and job training to AFDC parents—90 percent of the parents in JOBS are women.

✓ \$32.4 billion in the Earned Income Tax Credit. This was once seen as one of the few strands of the social safety net which was safe from conservative attacks. No longer the case, the Republican leadership now plans to increase taxes on 17 million low and moderate-income working families through cuts in this program.

✓ \$36 billion cuts from the Food Stamp program. These cuts put the 26 million vulnerable Americans who depend on food stamps in danger of hunger and malnourishment.

✓ \$28 billion cuts in Supplemental Security Income funds, including \$34 billion in cuts in SSI funds for kids. This cut denies as many as 755,000

disabled children SSI benefits.

✓ \$11 billion from child nutrition programs, which will affect: school lunch; school breakfast; WIC (Women, Infants and Children); child care food; and summer food programs.

✓ \$3 billion in Public Housing Funds which go to families with a median annual income of only \$6,800.

✓ \$44.4 million in HUD Homeless Assistance funds. This is a 40 percent cut, and it would deny assistance to more than 16,000 homeless children. It would also hurt women in homeless shelters—over half of whom are fleeing domestic violence.

✓ \$137 million in Head Start funds, which will deny 180,000 children nationwide from attending these early education programs.

✓ \$71.9 million cuts in domestic violence and sexual assault funds. This cut reduces the Violence Against Women Act funding of shelters, police stations and courthouses.

These are all drastic cuts which are aimed at the most vulnerable people in our nation.

The President must educate the American people about the highest stakes game of Russian Roulette that Gingrich and Dole are playing. It is better to shut down the government temporarily than to shut out our most vulnerable Americans permanently. Contact your congressman and tell them that poverty is not a crime and that they must reject these proposed cuts.

Youth benefit

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kids in the community," shared Michael A. Brown, Vice President and Manager, Human Resources, Merrill Lynch.

"I applaud Johnson & Johnson for this effort," said Bill Tyre of Johnson & Johnson health care, Piscataway. As a volunteer, Tyre expressed a great satisfaction with volunteering in the program. "The experience has been positive. I'm proud to be a part of their future." Tyre is working with the first grade on word association. "It helps having a male at that level," he explained.

Corporate contributions also provide field trips for students. Students visit workshops of employee/volunteers and work on a one-to-one basis.

African schools

Continued from page 1

We need books, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, erasers, maps, research materials, children's shoes and clothing. They need our help and they need it now," he added.

More than 4,000 persons attended the kick-off rally in Philadelphia, including 2,000 children from public schools, representatives of churches and community organizations.

Also in attendance were ambassadors from 15 African countries, representatives of the U.S. government, Philadelphia Mayor Edward Rendell, and other political leaders. President Bill Clinton sent a special message commending Rev. Sullivan for his initiative.

Rev. Sullivan said that the first air lift of supplies will take place in late

"It's very exciting to see the interest generated from the students and the employees," Tyre said.

"AT&T is committed to programs that demonstrate a genuine promise to improve the quality of life for young people. Project 2000 exemplifies such a program," said Robert Nersesian, district manager, Public Relations for AT&T. This program not only affords AT&T employees the opportunity to act as positive role models for New Brunswick's children, but allows them to continually contribute to these children's education.

"All the students have been exposed to mentorship by people who are really positive and successful. They are fine examples of where the student can go," Epps said.

January 1996 and supplies will continue to be sent to Philadelphia from contributors throughout the Christmas season.

School boards already committed to join with the Philadelphia School system in support of the SOS Campaign include: Richmond, Va.; Charlotte, NC; Cleveland, OH; Seattle, WA; Detroit, MI; Memphis, TN; Milwaukee, WI; New Orleans, LA; Newark, Trenton and Camden, NJ; Washington, DC; Birmingham, AL; Charleston, W.Va.; and Minneapolis, MN. Rev. Sullivan said he plans to have at least 40 citywide school systems involved in the SOS Campaign by the end of 1996. For further information on the SOS Campaign, contact Hope Sullivan Hurley at 602-443-1800.

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